



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Application Number	10/070,246
	Filing Date	June 26, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Colin John Hunter
	Group Art Unit	1742
	Examiner Name	Tirna M. McGuthry-Banks
	Attorney Docket Number	2145-133
Title of the Invention: Improved Bacterial Oxidation of Sulphide Ores and Concentrates		

AMENDMENT

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DEC 23 2002

TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Replace the specification of record with the accompanying substitute specification. No new matter has been entered.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 18 through 20 and 24 through 30 as follows.

18. (Amended) A process for the bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores and concentrates characterised in that the ore or concentrate is leached at a grind or crush size of greater than P_{80} 75 μ m with a bacterial culture operative across a temperature range of about 40 to 65 °C, the bacterial culture having been adapted to the ore or concentrate prior to leaching.

19. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the leach is conducted in a form selected from the group consisting of:

- a heap leach,
- a tank leach,
- a vat leach, and

p. 2
prior art
may not
work with
this
alone

p. 6 -
only used
these
one
bacterial
mixed culture

Do
scope to
limit
bacteria

to
claim 25
mixed
culture

-use
admission
on p. 2
of spec

any
sulphide
ore
-not limited
to chalcophyte
p. 2 spec
prior art
would
work
as long as
concentration
occurs